



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Norikazu Kobayashi et al.

Application No.: 10/765,891

Filing Date: January 29, 2004

Title: OUTSIDE HANDLE APPARATUS AND CONNECTOR MECHANISM

Group Art Unit: 3676

Examiner: GARY WAYNE ESTREMSKY

Confirmation No.: 2312

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

☐ A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

☐ Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the ☐ \$65.00 (2814) ☐ \$130.00 (1814) fee per
Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

☐ Also enclosed is/are _____

☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

☐ Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the
☐ \$395.00 (2801) ☐ \$790.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

☐ Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered.
Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted _____

_____ on _____
for which continued examination is requested.

☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least _____,
which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R.
§ 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also
enclosed.

- ☒ No additional claim fee is required.
- ☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below.

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	25	MINUS 25 =	0	x \$50.00 (1202) =	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	4	MINUS 4 =	0	x \$200.00 (1201) =	\$ 0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$360.00 (1203)					
Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$ 0.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.
- ☐ Charge _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.
- ☐ Charge _____ to credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

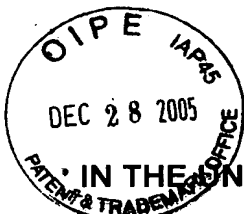
Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: December 28, 2005

By Matthew L. Schneider
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814



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In re Patent Application of)	
Norikazu Kobayashi et al.)	
Application No.: 10/765,891)	Group Art Unit: 3676
Filed: January 29, 2004)	Examiner: GARY WAYNE
For: OUTSIDE HANDLE APPARATUS)	ESTREMSKY
AND CONNECTOR MECHANISM)	Confirmation No.: 2312
)	
)	
)	

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated September 30, 2005 setting a three month shortened statutory period for response, the following remarks are submitted.

The aforementioned Official Action indicates that the claims in this application are directed to two different inventions. As identified in the Official Action, the two inventions are as follows.

Group I invention recited in Claims 1-15, 24 and 25 drawn to a handle/electrical connector structure.

Group II invention set forth in Claims 16-23 drawn to a method of assembly.

Based on the observation that the two inventions are distinct from one another, a restriction requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one of the two inventions.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the Group I invention recited in Claims 1-15, 24 and 25 drawn to a handle/electrical connector structure.

The election of the Group I invention is made with traverse because it is believed that all of the claims of this application can be examined at the same time without serious burden. While it is recognized that the two inventions may be separately classified, it is believed that the search required for the elected invention set forth in Claims 1-15, 24 and 25 would likely extend into those areas where the non-elected invention would be searched. In addition, examining the claims directed to the non-elected invention in addition to those directed to the elected invention would not require consideration of a seriously burdensome number of additional claims.

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all of the claims of this application, including Claims 1-15, 24 and 25 directed to the elected invention, are respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: December 28, 2005

By: Matthew L. Schneider
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Registration No. 32,814

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